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Merrimack College

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SPECIAL EDITION

2012

Merrimack

A MAGAZINE FOR OUR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS



SKIP BENNETT '88
ISLAND CREEK OYSTERS
DUXBURY, MA

FALL 2012 CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 4

The Core Ensemble presents the Premiere Performance of "Los Valientes"
7:00 p.m. (Rogers Center)
- 7

Merrimack Valley Chorus presents "Star Quest: In Search of dot, dot, dot"
2:00 p.m. (Rogers Center)
- 11-13

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts presents "Macbeth"
7:30 p.m. (Rogers Center)
- 15

Goldziher Prize Award Dinner, Rabbi Burt Visotzky
- 19-21

Colonial Chorus Players presents "Legally Blonde the Musical" (Rogers Center)
- 21

Admissions Fall Open House, for information visit:
www.merrimack.edu/visit
- 22

McLaughlin Lecture, Guest speaker: Dr. Rosalind Barnett
7:00 p.m. (Cascia Hall)
- 23

International Film "Leolo"
6:30 p.m. commentary; screening at 7:00 p.m. (Rogers Center) Free
- 24

Tambakos Classical Film: "The Tempest,"
6:30 p.m. commentary; screening at 7:00 p.m. (Rogers Center) Free
- 26

A Moment in Time presents "A Tribute to Benny Goodman,"
7:30 p.m. (Rogers Center)
- 27

Thinkfest! A STEM Festival,
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (MPR, Cascia, Rogers Center)
- 29

Graduate School Open House, 5:30-6:00 p.m. (Murray Lounge)
- 31

Merrimack Valley Leadership Speaker Series: John C. Maxwell, best-selling author and internationally-recognized speaker on leadership. (Rogers Center)
- 31

Silent Film: "The Phantom of the Opera,"
6:30 p.m. commentary; screening at 7:00 p.m. (Rogers Center) Free

NOVEMBER

- 2-4

Homecoming Weekend
- 8-11

OnStagers presents "Dead Man's Cell Phone" (Rogers Center)
- 10

Veteran Service Day
12:00-4:00 p.m.
- 13

St. Augustine's Birthday
- 28

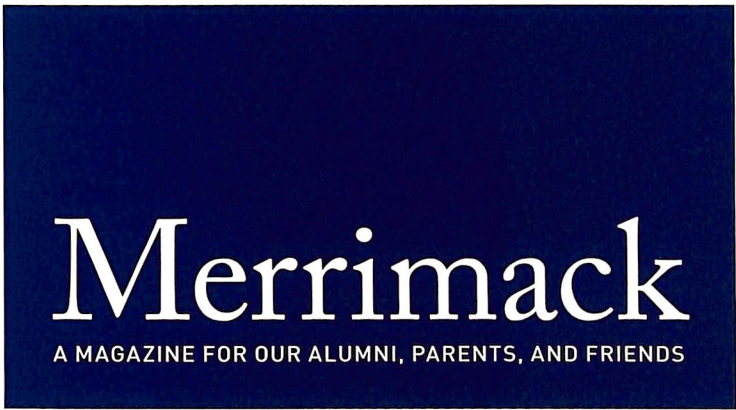
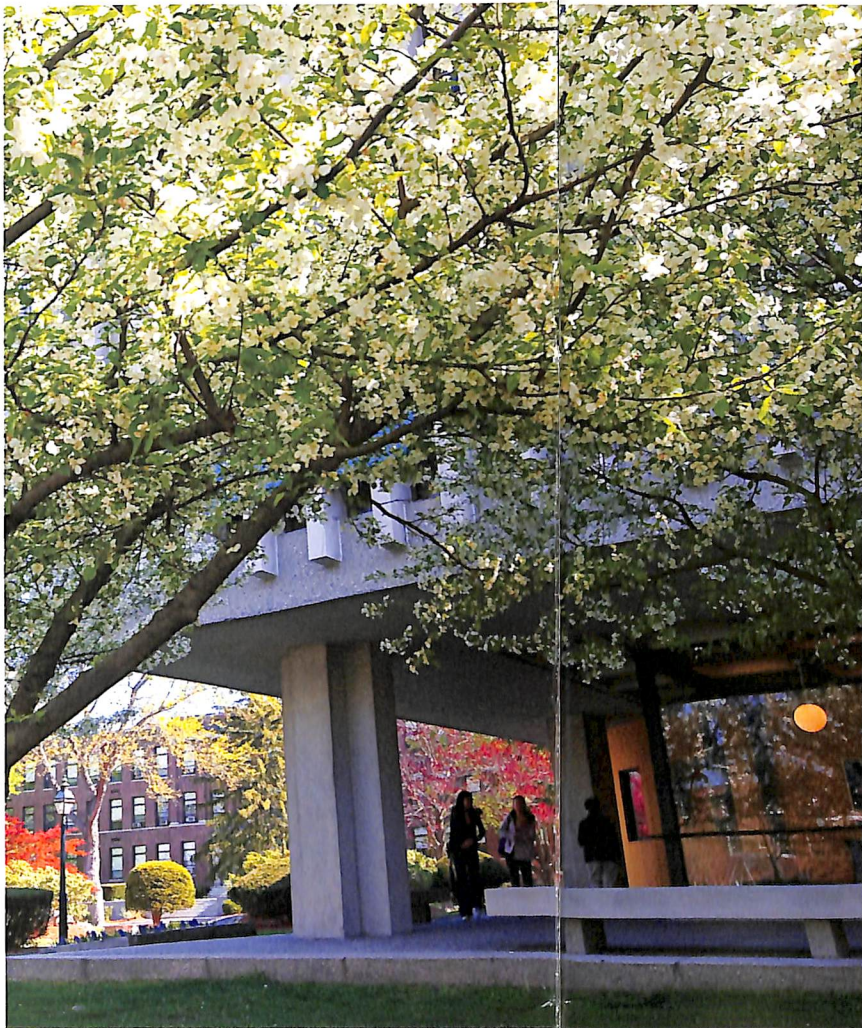
"Does Religion Harm Women?" Oxford Union Debate, 7:00 p.m. (Murray Lounge)

DECEMBER

- 4

Light & Hope
- 6

Alumni Christmas Party (Fenway Park)



ALUMNI EVENTS
Visit www.merrimack.edu/alumni-events or call 978-837-5440.

ATHLETICS
For schedule and news, visit www.merrimackathletics.com

ROGERS CENTER
Event listings and tickets, visit www.merrimack.edu/rogers or call the box office at 978-837-5355.

www.merrimack.edu

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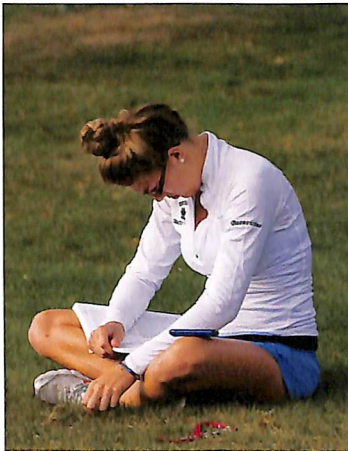
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2012



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EMPOWERED TO BE MORE. MERRIMACK COLLEGE



Open House:

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 29
5:30–7:00 P.M.**

Pre-register at www.merrimack.edu/nextstep

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS:

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FROM THE
PRESIDENT

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,



It has been a busy year at Merrimack College. We continued to advance our work to meet the goals outlined in the *Agenda for Distinction* and you can begin to feel and see the transformation of the College. This special edition of the *Merrimack Magazine* showcases the dynamic accomplishments we have made, as well as all we can look forward to throughout this academic year.

Merrimack has welcomed new faces, programs and traditions this past year and will continue our transformation in the form of construction, academic initiatives and attracting those eager to invest in our vision and join in our ascent.

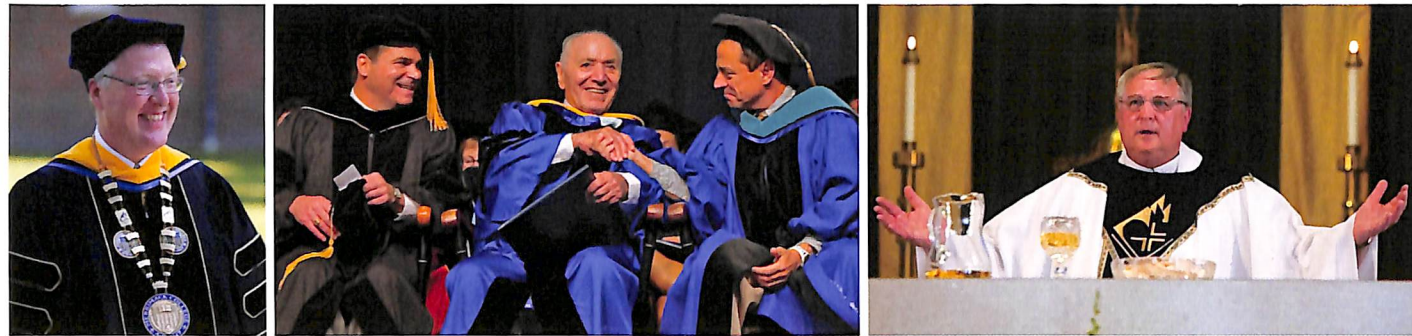
Our endeavor for greatness has built such momentum that, externally, individuals are seeing the worth of investment in Merrimack. This summer, the College successfully secured approximately \$70 million in bond funds, providing the resources needed to continue the College's evolution and breaking ground on two transformational projects this fall, the Volpe Athletic Center Expansion and the construction of the new Student Residence Project.

Student enrollments are growing rapidly as well. Merrimack College welcomed nearly 700 new freshmen students – our largest freshmen class in recent history. These students were accompanied by our 225 graduate students, many of whom are joining us as the inaugural classes of the Master of Science and Engineering and the Master of Science in Management programs.

As you read through this Special Edition of the *Merrimack Magazine*, you will learn more about the fruits of our labor, as well as what exciting things you can expect to see in the next issue of the Merrimack Magazine. I hope you will come to campus and see these changes for yourself and that you will join us on this exciting journey to greatness.

Best,

Christopher Hopey, Ph.D.
President



62ND COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

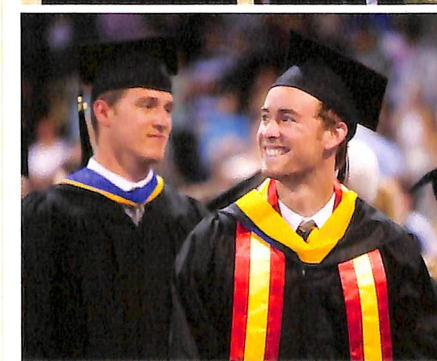
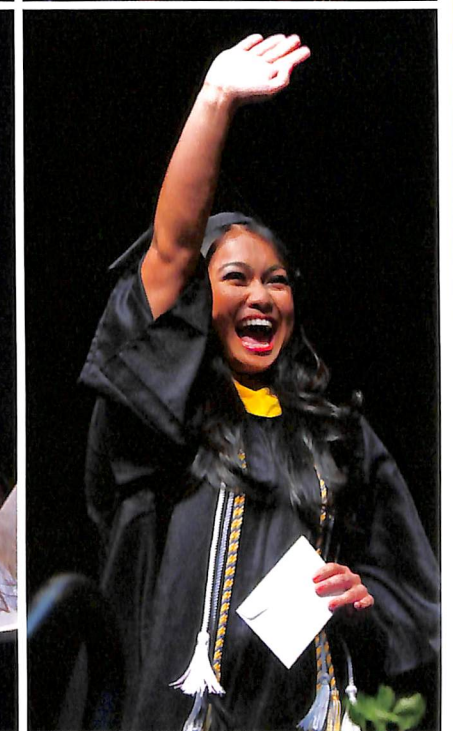
Merrimack College's 62nd Commencement marked a very memorable and extraordinary day for graduates.

David McGillivray '76, B.A.A. Boston Marathon Race Director, delivered the commencement address on Sunday, May 20, 2012. McGillivray has earned the reputation for being one of the world's finest race directors, and was bestowed an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Public Service. "Mr. McGillivray's dedication to service, community, and the greater good underscores Merrimack's core mission," said Dr. Christopher E. Hooley president, Merrimack College. McGillivray is known for philanthropy, as well as his numerous awards and achievements in the world of road racing.

Additional honorary degrees were also awarded: an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Public Service bestowed

upon Brian C. Mitchell '74, Ph.D., chairman of the Merrimack College Board of Trustees and former Bucknell University president; an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Education to Patricia Meservey, Ph.D., president, Salem State University; an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Health Sciences to Alfred L. Arcidi, Sr. '53, Ph.D.; and an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Augustinian Education to Reverend George F. Riley, O.S.A., Ph.D. Each recipient embodies the College's core mission and values of generous service and courageous leadership and was selected based on extensive knowledge in his/her field and tireless efforts and contributions towards society as a whole.

At Commencement, the College awarded 576 degrees, including 42 master's degrees, 530 bachelor's degrees and 4 associate's degrees.



**MERRIMACK COLLEGE EARNS
TEN-YEAR REACCREDITATION
FROM NEW ENGLAND
ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
AND COLLEGES**

Merrimack College is pleased to announce that it has been reaccredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The reaccreditation process is a voluntary based process that is defined by a commitment to establishing and maintaining high standards for all levels of education. These standards include institutional commitment to improvement and sufficiency of institutional resources.

The ten-year accreditation cycle consists of a self-study, a peer review and follow-up by the Commission.

"It is Merrimack College's priority to maintain these high standards of education and bring continuous education improvement to all levels of its programming at both the undergraduate and graduate level," said Dr. Christopher E. Hopey, President, Merrimack College. "The community's dedication and support to this important endeavor has been unwavering and I am delighted about the reaccreditation."

For the past two years, members of the Merrimack community have been hard at work to renew this accreditation by completing the process of the self-examination aimed at institutional improvement.

In addition, the College welcomed a visit by the NEASC Commission who acts as a collegial body in formulating plans, policies and strategies relating to higher education. The Commission is made up of faculty and administrators from peer institutions. During this time, the College engaged in community open forums and meetings where the Commission met with faculty, students and staff. If you would like to learn more, please visit www.merrimack.edu/NEASC. □



**A GIFT FOR
STUDENT SUCCESS**

A \$1 million gift made by the James W. O'Brien Foundation will provide deserving students with access to the education they strive for.

The changing demands of the global economy, shifts in the marketplace, increasing student populations, and student loan debt are forcing all institutions of higher learning to think about how they can create a meaningful experience for the student looking for the education and career development they need to succeed. With that in mind, Merrimack College has partnered with the James W. O'Brien Foundation to create the O'Brien Center for Student Success. The Center will serve as a hub to focus on cooperative education, a learning experience that builds practical skills and helps students translate theory in the classroom into practice in the workplace. In addition, the Center will offer an "earn to learn" environment that allows students to pay for part of their tuition through their cooperative education experience through regional and national corporations. Recent research published by the National Association of Colleges and Employers reports that more than 72 percent of employers prefer to hire new graduates who acquired work experience during their college careers through co-ops and internships.

"The O'Brien Foundation's extraordinary support of Merrimack College reflects its confidence in the institution's past, present and future," said President Christopher E. Hopey. "We thank the organization for its generous support through the years."

The O'Brien Foundation, founded by the late Lynn businessman James W. O'Brien 'H11, is Merrimack College's largest benefactor, having contributed more than \$10 million in student scholarships and financial aid to more than 1,000 students over the last 25 years. The new O'Brien Center supports the College's Agenda for Distinction, the strategic plan that will enable the institution to drive towards its vision of a highly ranked, internationally respected, selective masters comprehensive Catholic college, professionally focused and rigorous in the liberal arts, sciences, and business.

Dr. Hopey added, "We believe the Center will reflect James O'Brien's belief that, through hard work, anything is possible." □

Carolyn Digiammo, Dr. Christopher E. Hopey, Marybeth McInnis of the O'Brien Foundation, as well as Christopher Riley '93 and Jennifer Riley '93, pose together at the Scholarship Brunch reception held on May 6, 2012. *Photographer: Vaughn Winchell*

**GALLANT MAKES
\$2 MILLION
GIFT TO COLLEGE**

Merrimack College received an unrestricted gift of \$2 million from local entrepreneur and President's Advisory Board member Richard Gallant and his wife, Susanna, to support the institution's Agenda for Distinction. The gift is one of the largest gifts in the history of Merrimack College.

Richard Gallant is the President of the Middlesex Islanders, LLC, (MXI) one of the premier development and competitive hockey programs in New England with more than 750 players competing in all five Premier New England Hockey Leagues—the Eastern Junior, Empire and ESHL Junior Hockey Leagues and the Eastern Hockey Federation ("EHF") and the N.E. Women's Hockey League.

"We are delighted to strengthen our partnership with Richard, and thank him and his wife for their extraordinary generosity," said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "Richard's endorsement of the College's vision is a testament to our shared values," said Hopey.

"Susanna and I are delighted to be a part of Merrimack College's strategic plan and we share its vision of providing a platform to its students so that their development will enable them to be leaders in their professions and the communities in which they reside in the future," said Gallant. "I think we all share in the vision that Merrimack College will remain a place which upholds the utmost traditions and values of education, leadership and community service."

"Richard and Susanna's gift is a fundamental investment in the momentum of the College. Their generosity will benefit the College well into the future. On behalf of the



Board of Trustees, I thank them both for their commitment to Merrimack," said Dr. Brian Mitchell, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The *Agenda for Distinction* is the College's Strategic Plan that will enable it to confidently drive toward its vision of creating a highly-ranked, internationally-respected, selective masters comprehensive Catholic college, which is residential, student-centered, professionally focused and rigorous in the liberal arts, sciences, and business.

Among the projects planned for the first phase of the Agenda for Distinction are: strategic academic investments in faculty; a new undergraduate liberal arts core curriculum; graduate education; and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math); a new facility for the Sports Medicine Program; the Volpe Sports Complex Expansion for a planned move to NCAA Division 1; as well as the growth of the residential campus.

Gallant's gift is an endorsement of Merrimack College's future at a time of renewed optimism and momentum. The unrestricted nature of the gift reflects Gallant's confidence in the College's bold agenda and his interest in partnering with the College. □

Merrimack College and Islander Hockey Club Partnership

The Islander Hockey Club has a strong partnership with Merrimack College, including a long-term agreement for Merrimack to be the home ice for MXI. The partnership has recently grown with the development of a second ice rink on the College's campus—a groundbreaking in the fall.

"Richard is a great partner with the College through our long term relationship with the Islander Hockey Club and

his leadership commitment as a member of the President's Advisory Board," said President Hopey. "The partnership reflects a new vision for Merrimack College as a leader in community out-reach and engagement, and illustrates how colleges can build world-class facilities and create new programs and initiatives that benefit both the College and the community by connecting the right people at the right time."

"The partnership with Merrimack College is a key component of our continued commitment to the growth and the development of talented young student athletes. Together, Merrimack College and the Islanders will work to create the premiere youth hockey destination in New England," said Gallant. □

SEEN AND
HEARD
ON CAMPUS

VOLUNTEERING IN HAITI REAPS GREAT REWARDS

After the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Merrimack College entered a partnership with Project Medishare, a non-profit founded in 1994 by Drs. Barth Green and Arthur Fournier, a Merrimack alumnus. Project Medishare's mission is to establish sustainable programs; train Haitian physicians, nurses, and other allied-health professionals; care for Haitian youth; and provide technology, supplies and equipment to its clinics. Dr. Fournier shared his experiences in Haiti with our community and ask for our help. As a result, Brian Suehs-Vassel, campus-minister; Marc Veletzos, assistant professor of civil engineering, and Kevin Melanson, clinical instructor for athletic training collaborated to bring their talents and those of the Merrimack students to a week of service in Haiti, working with Project Medishare.

A small group of students, faculty and staff spent a week in June in the third-world country where they volunteered their time to help those in need. Margaret (Maggie) Jacques and Dan Borges, both civil engineering majors, assisted with improving access to clean water, while Mollie Fitzgerald and Chelsea Jacoby, athletic training majors, trained allied-health professionals in new ways they could better help patients with physical ailments.

Dr. Veletzos' team assessed the water system for the town of Marmont, provided materials and technical advice that should triple the amount of water to the town,



"I participated in this service trip to Haiti to serve others and benefit from learning about another culture, but while doing so, I [was] able to implement the knowledge and skills I have learned over the past three years of being an Athletic Training student."
—Mollie Fitzgerald

and repaired a pipe that was leaking over 30,000 gallons a day. In addition, they investigated possible water projects for future Merrimack teams.

Melanson's team provided allied-health workers with educational workshops on physical rehabilitation exercises, empowering the allied-health workers to go out into local villages with an increased ability to instruct patients on ways to prevent and relieve low back pain that often limits their ability to carry out the physically demanding tasks associated with being a farmer in rural Haiti. Additionally, they were able to evaluate and treat over a dozen individuals suffering from a variety of physical injuries for which there is minimal care currently available.

"When we talk about the word vocation, a lot of people only think about being a priest or a nun," said Suehs-Vassel.

"In my mind, the real meaning is when our God-given gifts meet the world's needs...that is where we find our vocation. When our students can use their skills to help the people of Haiti get clean water, that is the intersection of vocation. When athletic training students can share the gifts they have to better the lives of people who are in pain, that is at the heart of what vocation looks like."

Suehs-Vassel added, "That is what we are about as an Augustinian Catholic school; about helping students more than just finding a job that pays them a lot, but helping them find their vocation because that is when they will find joy, when they see an intersection of how their gifts can help others."

The group hopes to return to Haiti every winter break and every June with larger groups to expand students' professional and personal development as they share the knowledge and skills they acquired at Merrimack, and help ease the suffering of the people of Haiti.

More information, photos and additional insights from our students and professors can be found on www.merrimack.edu/projectmedishare. □

[above] Merrimack volunteers with Project Medishare are, from left: Maggie Jacques, civil engineering major; Molly Fitzgerald, athletic training major; Chelsea Jacoby, athletic training major; Brian Suehs-Vassel, campus minister; Dan Borges, civil engineering major; and in the foreground, Kevin Melanson, clinical instructor for athletic training. Missing from the photo is Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering Marc Veletzos, who snapped the photo.

[below] Chelsea Jacoby (left) and Molly Fitzgerald (center) work with an allied-health professional in Haiti, teaching him physical rehabilitation exercises.

Q&A with Dr. Jane Parent

Associate Professor,
Management, Girard
School of Business and
International Commerce



Dr. Jane Parent was named the 2012 Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Why do you teach at the College?

The simple answer is that I teach because I love it. I enjoy every type of student and the challenge of getting students excited about learning. My goal is to help individual students realize their full potential. Each student brings a specific set of skills to the classroom and ultimately the workplace. It's our job as teachers to recognize their strengths and areas for improvement and design our classes accordingly.

I had the luxury of choosing academia as a second career. Fifteen years ago, I left my industry job to go back to school for my Ph.D. While working in industry, I was always intrigued, not by the work itself (which was usually pretty straightforward), but by the "white spaces" in organizations. When it came time to choose my research discipline in my doctoral program, it was easy to choose Organization Studies—the study of behavior within groups and organizations. No matter which class I teach, I always strive to impress upon my students that their management skills (both of self and others) are very important in the workplace.

How did it feel to receive the Edward G. Roddy Teacher of the Year Award?

Of course, I was both surprised and excited to hear my name announced for the Edward G. Roddy Teacher of the Year Award. It's such an honor to be selected by both students and colleagues for this award. I felt like I was the one graduating this year! It was also great to have my family and friends in surprise attendance at the ceremony, too. My husband, Dave, did a great job keeping the "secret" the week before graduation!

What are some of your scholarly and research interests? My discipline research involves gaining a better understanding of how individuals adapt and thrive through changes in their workplace. My pedagogical (teaching) research focuses on unique and exciting ways to introduce business concepts in the classroom. I attend the Organizational Behavior Teaching Conference every year in order to see what new and innovative teaching techniques are being used at universities around the world. It's great to bring these ideas back to the Merrimack classroom.

How will your discipline change in the future? The two most important things for our future managers (and the management field) are keeping current with the many technology advancements and gaining a comprehensive understating of global business. Good managers must communicate and manage effectively in multiple technology mediums. Management is no longer just about face-to-face communication. Good business people must be very technology savvy. The other important facet of management is globalization. Our young managers will deal with multi-national and multicultural businesses every day of their careers.

What do you think sets Merrimack College apart from other institutions?

That's easy—we set ourselves apart by our individual relationships with students. Our class sizes are small enough so that we know our students quite well by the end of the semester. Most of our classes are taught by full time professors who genuinely care about the students and their learning. As professors, we take the time to form lifelong relationships with our students. Just about everyone who graduates from Merrimack remains involved with the school on some level.

What is your favorite spot on campus?

That's also easy—the hockey rink. I've watched both the rink and the hockey program grow and prosper in my six years at Merrimack. When I started at Merrimack in 2005, my family and I were practically the only fans in the rink. Now we have to be sure to buy our Season tickets early in order to be assured of a seat! I am a huge fan of the Merrimack Hockey program—just ask my colleagues, Pat Sendall, Kathy Cain and Kathy Nielsen—they think I am a fanatic and make fun of me all the time!

What is the last book you read for pleasure? I am currently reading *11/23/63* by Stephen King. I thought it was appropriate because I also vacationed in Maine this summer (where Stephen King is from). King is a great storyteller, no matter what he writes about. □

TIMOTHY R. MURPHY '88 NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

The Merrimack College Board of Trustees elected **Timothy R. Murphy** Chairman effective July 1, 2012. Murphy has served on the Board since 2007, most recently as vice-chair and active in the executive, finance, investment and planning committees.



Murphy is chief executive officer of Beacon Health Strategies, a behavioral health managed care company that specializes in the management of mental health and substance use services, particularly focusing on vulnerable populations with significant physical, behavioral and social maladies. Under Murphy's leadership since 2007, Boston headquartered Beacon has emerged from a founder-owned company conducting business in three states to a national company with operations in 17 states and employing over 600 people.

Prior to joining Beacon, Murphy served as the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts under Governor Mitt Romney. His signature accomplishment during that time was the development, passage and initial implementation of the landmark Massachusetts health care reform law which enabled each Massachusetts resident the opportunity to purchase affordable health insurance and improve the value of the health care delivery system.

In addition to his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Merrimack College, Murphy also earned a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University. Mr. Murphy replaces Dr. Brian Mitchell whose successful and transformative term ended in June.

The Board also welcomed six new members this past summer:

Alfred Arcidi, Senior Vice President, Whittier Health Network

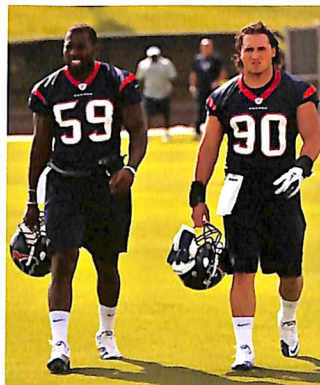
Phil Arcidi, Treasurer, Whittier Health Network

Mary Franco, President, Norwalk Hospital Foundation

Hosffman Ospino, Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Education, Faculty Director of Graduate Programs in Hispanic Ministry, Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry

Michael Shunney, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Employee Benefits Group, Sun Life Financial U.S.

Lee Slattey, President/Publisher, *Family Circle* □



Shawn Loiseau '12 (right, #90) became the first Merrimack player to sign an NFL Contract, agreeing to terms with the Houston Texans in April. *Photo: AP.*

LOISEAU EYES ROSTER SPOT WITH NFL'S HOUSTON TEXANS

Shawn Loiseau '12 has a chance to become the first Merrimack College player to ever play in the NFL.

A two-time All-American at Merrimack, Loiseau signed a contract with the Houston Texans in April and is participating in the team's training camp as a line-backer and on special teams.

"I'm very passionate about Merrimack," said Loiseau in an interview with the *Boston Herald*. "I couldn't have met better people

or surrounded myself with better people than them. I feel like I represent them every single day at Houston. All the hard work that I put in and all of the help that they've given me along the way, I couldn't be any more thankful to them."

A criminology major at Merrimack, Loiseau was also the first Merrimack student-athlete to be invited to the East-West Shrine Game and the NFL Combine, both of which garnered him national attention. □

MERRIMACK LAUNCHES TWO NEW MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Merrimack is expanding its graduate programs with two new master's degrees: Master of Science in Engineering and Master of Science in Management. These two new graduate degrees join a comprehensive graduate portfolio of more than ten licensure and non-licensure Master of Education programs in our School of Education.

These robust programs are comprised of students from a wide range of ages and backgrounds, including recent Merrimack alumni. The Master of Science in Management is open to applicants of all undergraduate disciplines. The Master of Science in Engineering requires applicants to have completed undergraduate work in science or mathematics; however, applicants with non-engineering degrees will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Like the established Master's in Education program, students in the Engineering and Management programs will have the choice of a part-time or full-time, one year program. Students will also have the opportunity to become involved with optional co-ops and internships. These opportunities allow students to bolster their resumes and improve their odds of securing employment following graduation.

For more information, please visit www.merrimack.edu/graduate or call the Office of Graduate Admissions at 978-837-5073. □

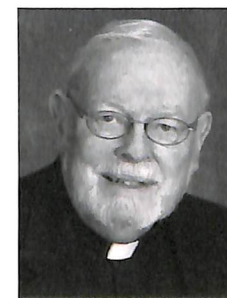
AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS REACH 50-YEAR MILESTONE

Three Augustinian Friars with ties to Merrimack College recently celebrated the 50 year anniversary of their ordination. Rev. Kevin F. Dwyer, O.S.A., Rev. William T. Garland, O.S.A. and Rev. George F. Riley, O.S.A. were ordained to the priesthood at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher at Merrimack College on February 3, 1962 at a ceremony officiated by His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston. It was an historic day for the College that celebrated two of the earliest former students from the Greater Lawrence area (Fr. Dwyer and Fr. Riley) returning to Merrimack for ordination. All three Augustinian Friars went on to accomplish great things.

Rev. Kevin F. Dwyer, O.S.A. has been a pillar of the Merrimack College community since 1963. He served as professor in the Department of Religious & Theological Studies, several years as department chair, and archivist of the College from 1968 to 2002. He retired in 2011. Fr. Dwyer served two terms on the Board of Trustees of Villanova University. In addition, he was prior of the Merrimack community at the Monastery of Our Mother of Good Counsel. The Honorary Doctor of Augustinian Education degree was bestowed upon Fr. Dwyer at Merrimack College's fifty-seventh commencement in 2007.

Rev. William T. Garland, O.S.A. served two four-year terms as Prior and Treasurer of Our Mother of Good Counsel Monastery at Merrimack and ten years as a Trustee at Villanova University. He was principal of a collaborative, inter-parochial school in Boston's inner city and was subsequently appointed Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Manchester (NH). Later, Fr. Garland was appointed Director of Education for the Diocese of Fall River and, while serving there, he was elected by the Chapter as a councilor of the Province for two terms. He retired in 2010 and continues to serve on the Board of Trustees at Merrimack College for a fourth and final term.

Rev. George F. Riley, O.S.A. has served eight presidents at Villanova University in a variety of positions for the past 50 years. He was Vice President for University Relations for 22 years and



since 1993 has been a Special Assistant to the President of the University for Alumni and External Relations. He has served on the Board of Trustees of Merrimack College. Last May, Fr. Riley was presented the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Augustinian Education at Merrimack College's 62nd Commencement Exercises.

Congratulations to all three friars and thank you for your years of dedication and service. □

(above, left to right) Bishop John Colmer; Rev. George Riley, O.S.A.; Rev. Kevin Dwyer, O.S.A.; Rev. William Garland, O.S.A.; Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston; Rev. Vincent McQuade, O.S.A., First President of Merrimack College; Rev. Ezra Fenton, O.S.A., at the ordination of Frs. Dwyer, Garland and Riley in 1962. (below, left) Rev. Kevin Dwyer, O.S.A.; (below, center) Rev. William Garland, O.S.A.; (below, right) Rev. George Riley, O.S.A.

CALLING ALL VETERANS OF MILITARY AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE...

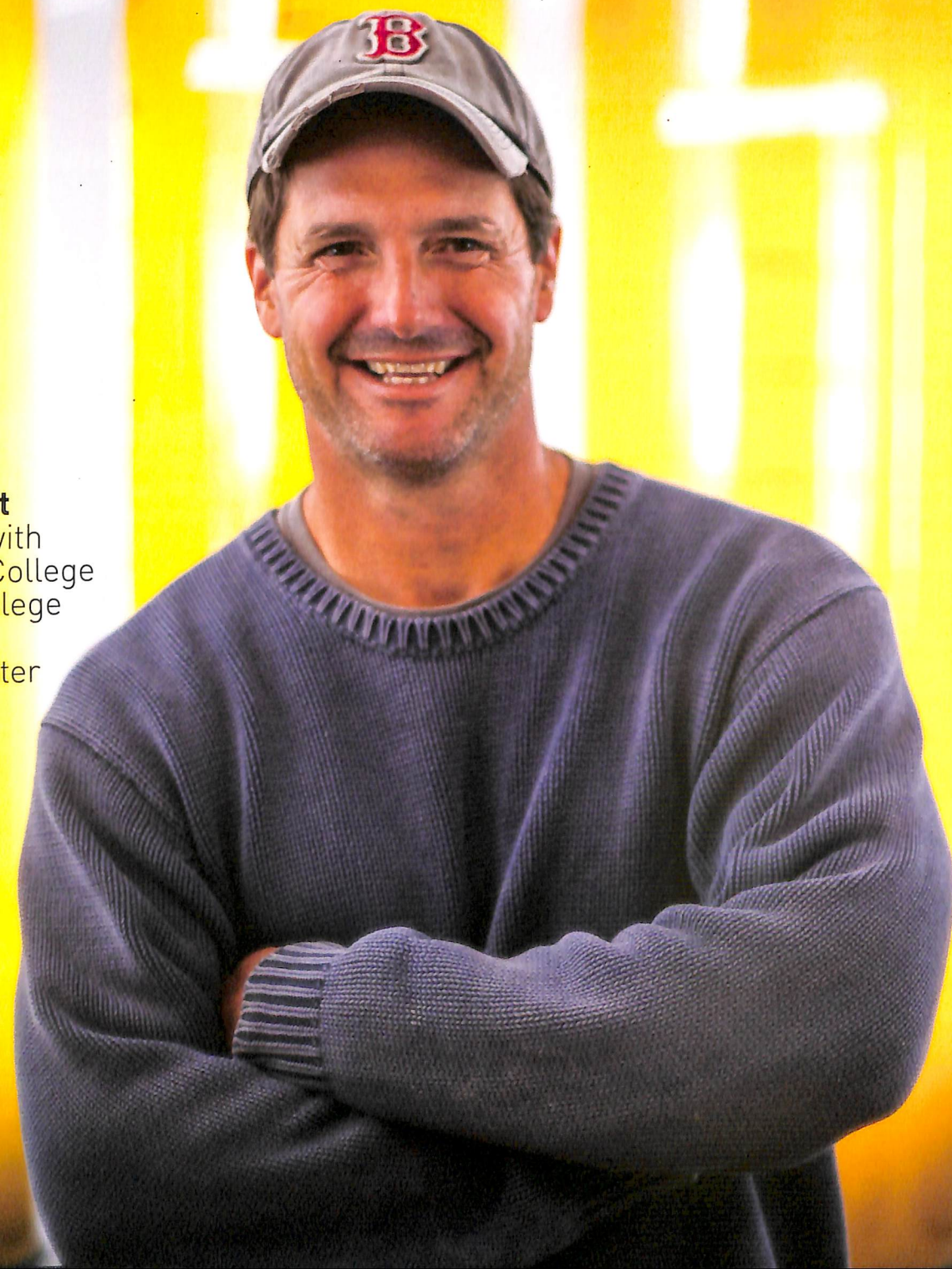
In honor of our Augustinian heritage and history as a College founded to serve the needs of military veterans, Merrimack College is planning to celebrate Veterans Day (November 11) and the birth of St. Augustine (November 13) by calling all members of Merrimack Community to join together in a day of service to others on Saturday, November 10 from noon to 4:00 p.m. The theme of this event is "we honor those who have served by serving others."

As part of this commemoration, we would like to honor all those who have given a year or more of their lives in service to others either in the Military or as part of a social service volunteer program such as the Peace Corps, Vista, AmeriCorps, Teach for America, the Augustinian Volunteers or other year-long service organization.

Please let us know if you are among the many who have brought honor to Merrimack College by your generous service to others by contacting Bev Lavallee at (978) 837-5217 or email to lavallee@merrimack.edu so that we can be sure to include you in this celebration. □

THE MAN OF THE CREEK

Skip Bennett catches up with Merrimack College about his college days and his booming oyster business.



Skip Bennett is an oyster farmer. But to chefs around the country, he is known as much more than that. He is the founder of Island Creek Oysters and the man behind some of the most sought after oysters in the country. Although Skip Bennett is clearly a man with a plan today, he explains that it wasn't always that way.

"I really struggled with what I wanted to do in life in the beginning," recalls Bennett. "As a college student, I mussel farmed and my passion always remained on the water—but I never thought it would be what I would do for the rest of my life." →

(left) Skip Bennett stands in front of K tubes that hold plankton for feeding developing oysters.

Bennett, a member of the class of 1988, remembers his days on Merrimack's campus fondly. "I played hockey and had a great time while I was a student," says Bennett. By his junior year, with a little guidance from Professor Phil Lee, Dean and Professor of Finance, Bennett had decided to major in finance. "I spent my first two years not sure of what I wanted to do and then I finally realized how much I loved it—I was good at it and it really made a lot of sense to me."

Bennett planned to travel to the Big Apple to begin his career the summer following graduation, but as life sometimes goes, Bennett's plans shifted. After spending the summer in Duxbury digging mussels, he realized the busy streets of New York could never give him the satisfaction he had on the water.



ICO—The Early Days

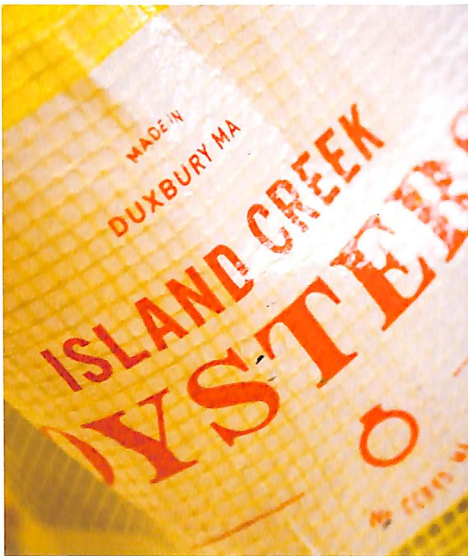
"I originally heard about a group out on Cape Cod who were growing their own mussels and were really seeing traction," Bennett says. "So I thought I may have the same success with clams." At the age of 23, Bennett began farming hard shell clams right in Duxbury sound. After about three years of successful clamming, an unpredicted parasite killed off the clams and left Bennett with two choices: give up or try something else. After much speculation, Skip Bennett decided he was going to start growing oysters.

He was soon joined by Christian Horne, an oyster farmer from Maine, who supplied ICO with seed for farming oysters directly in the bay. With the New England weather being too cold for wild oysters to spawn in the waters, this new opportunity allowed ICO to grow baby oysters in upwellers and then transfer them directly out into the bay where they could finish growing. Bennett and Horne worked scientifically to find the right balance of water temperature and plankton, or as they like to call it "super food" to feed and grow the oysters until they had it just right.

Bennett and his team began selling their oysters to local restaurants in 2000. As they continued with this plan, Bennett realized the respect that he had for culinary masters and wanted to supply them with the best possible product he could.

Direct to Chef—a New Business Model

Bennett first began selling his oysters to wholesalers but after the tragic incidents on 9/11, found he needed to find an alternative selling route. "Wholesalers were scaling back and that fall, I finally found myself with the largest harvest I had ever had," Bennett explains. "I had an idea that introducing myself to chefs personally, and explaining where these oysters were coming from that they might be more interested." And work it did—Skip Bennett became the first oyster farmer in the area to take a "direct to chef" route. One of those chefs was Chris Schlesinger of the East Coast Grill in Cambridge who was introduced to Bennett by an old college friend Jim Morganstern, class of '89.



"He was so appreciative and excited that a farmer was coming in with these oysters—a product that was very rare at the time. I was fortunate that he bought them—it really was the start of building our brand."

As for other restaurants who Bennett began personal relationships with, they include the French Laundry, Per Se and Eastern Standard.

Today, Island Creek Oysters is a large outfit that extends thousands of feet out into the bay with a family concept at its core. Bennett has grown his business in many aspects that include his 15 full-time employees. He owns and operates the distribution arm of ICO, and for the first time this year, ICO now operates its own nursery where they foster reproduction and supply themselves with their own oyster seeds. Bennett's business has also expanded to include the Island Creek Oyster Bar, located in Kenmore Square, Boston, co-owned by Jeremy Sewall.

As for the future of Island Creek Oysters, "Well, we have a few things in the works right now that I really can't talk about," says Bennett. "But we're going to be busy for a while."

Making a Difference

Island Creek Oysters goes far beyond simply selling oysters. The business has a strong philanthropic vision "where all people have uninterrupted access to nutritious, sustainably grown food." The non-profit sector of Island Creek Oysters, the Island Creek Oyster Foundation (ICOF), firmly believes that the aquaculture is an intricate part of sustaining the growth of the human population. To make this vision a reality, the foundation has begun initiatives in Haiti and Zanzibar, Tanzania in order to help the populations that live there.

In 2011, Skip Bennett and ICOF Vice President Shore Gregory traveled to meet with Dr. Valentin Abe. Abe is the founder of Caribbean Harvest, an organization aimed at re-creating the commercial fishing industry in Haiti. Bennett and Gregory returned to the ICOF with a passion for Abe's work. As a result, Island Creek Oysters will now annually provide 40 families with Tilapia Fish Farming Kits. In addition to giving families a year-round protein source, these kits will allow families to raise their income anywhere from \$300 to \$3,000 per year on average.

Island Creek Oyster Foundation has also extended their efforts to Tanzania where they are helping to fund a developing shellfish hatchery in Zanzibar. Scientists at Woods Hole Oceanographic

Institution have developed a new source of protein, which offers environmental benefits and provides the women in the coastal villages with a reliable source of income. The hatchery production project is now in its third year and has the potential for expansion along the coast of East Africa.

In addition to these generous projects, ICOF is dedicated to educating the public about the importance of aquaculture and the effect it has on both the environment and our human population. The foundation is especially passionate about educating the younger generation about this crucial issue and will be piloting an Aquaculture Club in the local Duxbury Middle School in October.

The club will provide a unique opportunity for collaborative learning between the middle school students and Island Creek Oysters. This program will be a hands-on experience through visits to the Island Creek Oysters Bar restaurant and Skype sessions with the team leaders in Haiti. The curriculum will consist of educating the students about sustainable food production by using Caribbean Harvest as a key example.

In addition to their philanthropic efforts, Island Creek Oysters has received notable media recognition included being featured on the Travel Channel's popular food show "Bizarre Foods" with Andrew Zimmern. □

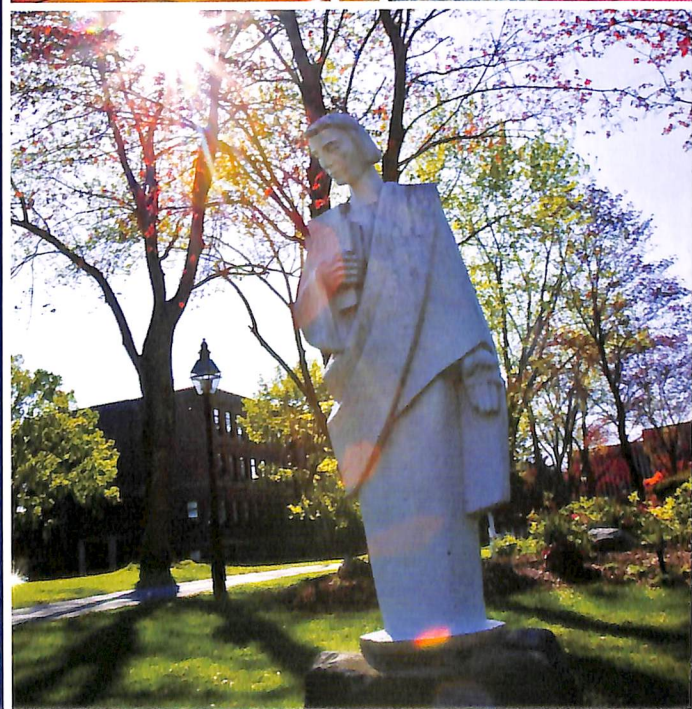
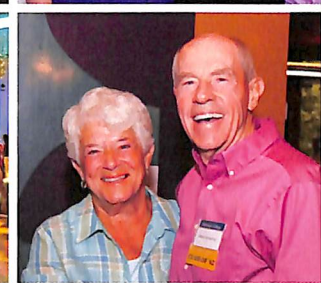
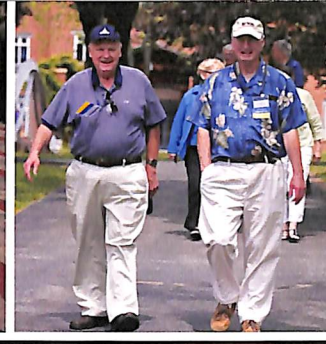


A typical day

Bennett and his team see about 150 bags of oysters a day and sell about 100,000 a week. The team searches for oysters that measure three inches or more, the ICO standard, as their logo bouts. Those that are smaller are shipped to chefs around the country who like signature sizes and shapes.

In terms of growing oysters spending time in the upwellers, those, too, receive a lot of attention. They are washed everyday and size observed. Bennett explains that these oysters are rotated out to make sure they are growing, to have the perfect 'cup' size that ICO is so well known for.

REUNION AND ALUMNI EVENTS



REUNION WEEKEND

Merrimack College celebrated another successful Reunion Weekend, as the College welcomed nearly 500 alumni and friends to campus on June 8-10.

Alumni, families, and friends were able to partake in activities both on and off campus, including a Newburyport boat cruise, campus trolley tour, afternoon barbeque, and 5K Fun Walk/Run event.

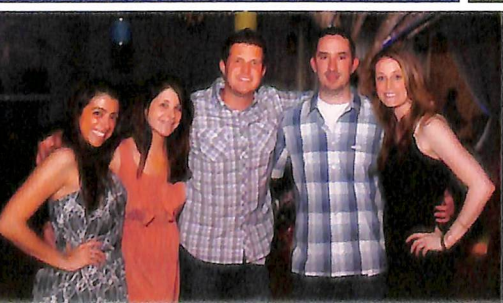
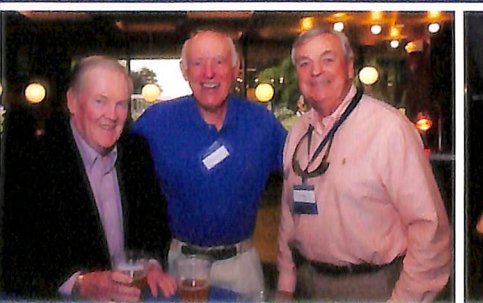
The weekend-long celebration kicked off Friday night with the Warrior Welcome Reception in the McQuade Library. Guests mingled with their classmates and fellow "2s" and "7s" Reunion attendees and were later treated to a spectacular fireworks display on the lawn.

Saturday evening welcomed the largest group of alumni of the entire weekend to the highly-

anticipated Class Photos and Cocktail Reception, followed by the Class Dinners. After dinner, guests danced the night away in the MPR to the songs of Boston band, *Redline*, keeping the party going until 1 a.m.

The class of 1962 boasted the largest class attendance at Reunion, as 89 of their classmates returned to Merrimack to partake in the special 50th Reunion festivities as part of their initiation into the Golden Graduate Society.

Merrimack applauds all those who attended the 2012 Reunion Weekend, as well as the dedicated Class Reunion Committee members who contributed immensely to the weekend's success. The College encourages graduates of the classes ending in "3s" and "8s" to save June 7-9, 2013 on their calendars.



CLASS NOTES



57

Louise Muise's Louise Muise's grandson, Harrison Koza, graduated from James Madison High School in Tempe, Arizona on June 9th, forcing her to abandon her fellow 55th reunion cadre.

61

Mike Cassidy and Joe Daly '65 recently competed together as members of the Central Mass Rusty Blades in the 9th Annual Senior Hockey Tournament in Laurel, MD.

66

Robert Page, A.B. has published *The Monster We Defied: A Son's Alzheimer's Recital*, the memoir of his mother, Mary's, eight-year passage through the shattering disease. He remains a clinical psychologist in independent practice.

67

Beth Cole is happy to share that after 24 years in college administration, and an additional 13.5 as an administrative assistant at Merrimack, she has retired! She enjoyed her cottage at Newfound Lake, Bristol, NH this summer and will look forward to volunteer opportunities in the fall.

68

Constance Pozniak, DVM has been appointed by Governor Bob McDonnell to serve on the Board of Veterinary

Medicine and the Board of Health Professions in Virginia. These boards maintain acceptable standards of professional practice in Virginia and apply disciplinary action when practitioners do not practice in accordance with those standards. Dr. Pozniak is the owner of Boulevard Veterinary Hospital for Integrative Healing in Norfolk, VA. She is also an alumnus of Boston College and Suffolk University.

69

In September 2011, ten members/roommates of the **Class of '69**, along with their spouses, met in New Hampshire for a mini-reunion weekend. They traveled from Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Connecticut. It was their first get together in 26 years, and it was like they were never apart. A great time was enjoyed by all. ①

72

Robert Mitchell, Ph.D. retired after 30 years as president of the Maine Council on Economic Education. He was recently named security director for the Portland Sea Dogs, the Double A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox.

Christopher J. Sheehan earned his Master of Arts in Religious Studies from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT, in May 2011. He joined SHU in 1999 as University editor & writer. He also holds a master's in English from Trinity College in Hartford, CT; a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT; and a professional

graduate certificate in marketing from the John F. Welch College of Business at Sacred Heart University.

73

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Research Board is pleased to welcome its newest member, **Dr. Richard "Rick" Shaw**. The associate dean of the School of the Coast and Environment and a professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences at Louisiana State University (LSU), Shaw was nominated by the state of Louisiana and appointed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to fill a vacant seat on the Research Board. Shaw earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Merrimack College and his doctorate in oceanography from the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center.

76

Kevin Doyle has returned to San Diego-based B2B digital publisher The WDM Group as senior editor of *Global Profiles*. Based in the Boston office, Doyle is part of the three-person team implementing standardized SOPs for the Content Department; he serves as a liaison between content and sales teams in Boston, Toronto, San Diego and Norwich, UK; provides managerial oversight across territories and industry sectors; and he writes 12-15 industry profiles per month. Doyle previously worked for The WDM Group from April 2008 through June 2010 in the capacity of managing editor/North America.



80

John Parrotta and his wife, Nalini, recently celebrated their 25th anniversary with their daughter, Priya, currently a senior at Brown University. John continues his international research and policy work with the U.S. Forest Service, dividing his time between homes in Falls Church, VA and San Juan, PR, where Nalini is a professor of literature at the University of Puerto Rico. He recently published a multi-authored book entitled *Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge: Sustaining Communities, Ecosystems, and Biocultural Diversity* (Springer, 2012), based on a six-year effort he led under the auspices of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. At present he is coordinating the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Global Forest Expert Panel on Biodiversity, Forest Management and REDD+, which is preparing a scientific synthesis for decision-makers intended to shed light on the biodiversity conservation opportunities, risks and trade-offs inherent to forest-related climate change mitigation activities and policies in tropical and subtropical countries. ③

81

Barry Sullivan, CPA resides in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife, Toshiko Suzuki. Barry is vice president, Operations for Ecotality, Inc., a public company that is a leader in the development of electric vehicles and related infrastructure. Barry has served as president and chief financial officer of public and private

companies after co-founding the accounting firm Sullivan and Drooks. He is the proud father of three daughters, Laura, Katie and Kelly, and an extremely proud grandfather of six-month-old Madeline.

88

At its 36th annual conference in Macon, GA., the National Society of Newspaper Columnists named "Mike Farley in Writing" a first-place winner in its 2012 annual writing contest. The column earned the top honor for online, blog and multimedia columns with under 100,000 monthly unique visitors. An NSNC member since 2011, **Mike Farley** is a general interest and humor writer living in Weymouth, MA. He accepted the honor on Saturday, May 5, at the conference awards ceremony at Macon's historic Hay House. This was his first time participating in the contest.

90

Timothy J. O'Connor recently made partner at accounting firm Edelstein & Co. LLP in Boston, MA. He received his undergraduate degree from Merrimack College and his master's from Bentley. He lives in Weymouth.

91

Matthew A. Kraunelis has been named the deputy chief of staff at the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs & Business Regulation. Formerly, he has served as the chief of staff to the mayor of Methuen, MA; assistant general counsel at the Mass Department of Mental Health; and as a Methuen city councilor.

92

Glenn Robinson graduated *cum laude* from Roger Williams University School of Law in May 2011. Glenn is a member of the Bar for Massachusetts and Rhode Island, as well as for United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. Prior to attending law school, Glenn was employed by Fidelity Investments.

94

Sarah Jane (Walsh) Constantine met her true love, **Steve Constantine**, on their first day at Merrimack. They recently celebrated 21 years together and have a daughter, Angela, now 11. They credit Merrimack College for a great education that prepared them both for graduate school. Sarah Jane ran the Boston Marathon on behalf of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help raise money for a cure for blood cancer. ④

99

Alex Gregson completed the Teacher Certification Program in Social Studies at Providence College in December of 2011.

00

Cleveland State University's Monte Ahuja College of Business has tapped **Nate Ward** to serve as its first director of the International Trade Assistance Center, which will serve businesses of Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lake and Geauga counties. The International Trade Assistance Centers of Ohio are supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Ohio Department of Development. Although five other International Trade Assistance Centers exist throughout Ohio, this is its first based in Cleveland. ⑤

01

Local attorney **John H. Kimball III** was promoted to the rank of major on July 1 of this year in the Marine Corps Reserves. He has been serving on and off since January of 2002 having deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, and most recently served in the reserves at the 25th Marine Regiment at Fort Devens. He has received a number of awards, including: the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; Iraqi Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Medal Expeditionary; Global War on Terrorism Medal; and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Major Kimball grew up in Lynnfield where he now practices law. ⑥

02

Dr. Dennis Wigandt is the clinical manager for the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Poison Control Center. Dennis earned a B.A. in English at

Merrimack College and a Doctor of Pharmacy from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston. Wigandt also serves as adjunct professor of Pharmacy Practice at MCPHS and as a certified specialist in poison information. He currently lives in Stoneham, MA.

Erin (Keleher) Mackay graduated from Salem State University with a CAGS in Educational Leadership. She was also inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Kimberly Bennett (B.A., Political Science), accepted a position as the legislative assistant to the Director of Government Affairs at Injured Workers Pharmacy (IWP) in Andover, MA. Prior to IWP, Kimberly worked for the U.S. Treasury Department as a tax examining technician and in the Massachusetts House of Representatives as both a legislative aide and legislative director for two state representatives.

04

Kelly McDaniel received her master's in Library and Information Science from Simmons College in Boston. She works as the digital services librarian at Franklin W. Olin College in Needham, MA. Kelly and her husband also run a graphic design business, Michael McDaniel Designs (www.designsofmm.com). Alumni discount of 15% off design needs!

Colleen Hunter is currently in her second year of Ph.D. studies in cell & molecular biology at the University of Texas—San Antonio. She recently had her first publication accepted in *Experimental Medicine and Biology*.

06

Michael Loggia, a Memphis, TN police officer, has been awarded the Medal of Honor for his acts of courage, dedication and sacrifice on July 3, 2011. Officer Loggia and members of his team displayed the finest examples of teamwork, discipline and control as they faced an armed suspect responsible for the deaths of a civilian and a fellow officer in the Memphis Doubletree Hotel. Officer Loggia has been a Memphis police officer since October 2010.

08

Nicole Jussaume and William Miller, III have planned an August 2012 wedding in Southern New Hampshire. Nicole currently works in the Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Department at Children's Hospital Boston. William is an investment production associate for Fidelity Investments.

Lauren Anne D'Ambrosio, BS Athletic Training, has received her Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Franklin Pierce University. Lauren graduated *summa cum laude* on May 12, 2012. Originally from East Boston, MA, she currently lives in Maryland.

09

Catie Hall graduated with a Master's of Science in Nursing from Boston College in Spring '11. She is currently working as a nurse practitioner in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA.

Passages

Dr. Joseph A. Pavelcak died on September 29, 2011 at the age of 84. He retired from Merrimack College after 35 years in the Department of Mathematics and was instrumental in establishing the Computation/Computer Center and the first-in-the-nation Electronic Calculator Mathematics Laboratory. He served as director of the Center from 1966 to the late 1970s.

Dr. Ronald M. McCarthy, who retired from Merrimack College in 2006 after 27 years of service in the Department of Sociology, died on October 20, 2011 at the age of 63.

Rev. William A. McGuire, O.S.A., a member of the Merrimack College Board of Trustees from 1993-2001 and from 2004-2006 and Chairman of the Board in 2001, died on January 17, 2012. He had served as senior vice president for administration at Villanova from 1998-2006 and treasurer of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova from 2007-2009. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Education from Merrimack College in 2003.

Clifford E. Elias, former member of the Merrimack College Board of Trustees and recipient of the Merrimack College Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 2001, died on May 12, 2012. He was an area lawyer and taught at Suffolk University Law School, as well as serving as associate dean and project manager at that institution.

Daniel B. Breen '51, the first student to enroll at Merrimack College in 1947, died on June 10, 2012 at the age of 88. The proud member of the Merrimack College Alumni Association served as Deputy Tax Commissioner from 1973 to 1990, taught classes at Northeastern University Graduate School of Public Administration, and also served as director of the Commonwealth Co-operative Bank.

Ann Flynn Cozzi '60 died at her home in New York City on August 28, 2011 after a recurrence of lung cancer. At Merrimack, she was the manager of the tennis team and a member of the glee club and lived in the original Cascia Hall. A nurse until her retirement, she continued her volunteer work in hospitals, church, and local organizations. Ann was also a member of the Alumni Council.

Nancy E. Casavant '62 of West Newbury and Vero Beach, FL, passed away on December 2, 2010 at the Merrimack Valley Hospice House in Haverhill, after a brief illness. Nancy taught at the Salisbury Memorial School in Salisbury for 33 years.

Donna M. (Kapchus) Guidara '69 of Stoneham, MA passed away on May 2, 2012 after several battles with breast cancer. She was an ESL teacher in the Malden Public Schools for the past 14 years. Donna also helped counsel other breast cancer patients.

Gerald M. "Jerry" Camuso '72 died on March 17, 2012. He was the owner and president of SenCam Inc., Lawrence until his retirement in 2005. He was the recipient of the prestigious Merrimack College St. Augustine's Award in 1987, and founder and co-chair of the Merrimack College President's Cup golf tournament for 14 years.

Richard James Nally III '80 died unexpectedly at home on October 18, 2011. Rich earned his BA in accounting and worked for Raytheon Company and Massachusetts Bay Transit authority as an accounting manager. He recently received the "Community Commitment Award" from the Georgetown Educational Foundation in grateful appreciation for his outstanding service to the Georgetown community.

Michael B. LoVerme '10 died on Friday, June 15, 2012 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. Michael graduated in 2010 with a degree in computer science and had been employed at Opnet Technologies in Nashua. He was pursuing his Master's Degree at UMass Lowell. At 17, Michael was the youngest NH resident to become a Cisco certified network engineer. □

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

HOMECOMING 2012

Merrimack College's Homecoming and Family Weekend will be taking place on
November 2-4, 2012

We hope you will join us for the exciting athletic games and festivities we have planned!

Homecoming 2011 highlights:

- Football tailgate
- Family Carnival Fun Zone
- Men's ice hockey vs. Northeastern and Connecticut
- Student Life coffee hour
- Greek Reunions

For more details, visit www.merrimack.edu/homecoming

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